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THE NICARAGUA CANAL.

The recent proposition of M. Hulin, the president of the Panama Canal company, that the United States appoint a special commissioner to inspect the Panama canal and appraise its value in cash, is an absurd proposition. M. Hulin gives no valid reason why the United States should go to this trouble and expense. He does not bind his company to sell at the figure the United States commissioner shall fix, or at any other figure, or to sell at all. Even if he did bind himself to sell, he can sell only the plant and the work so far done. He can not sell the concessions. The treaty between France and Colombia expressly forbids that. In that treaty there is a special clause prohibiting the transfer of the concessions.

Therefore it is that Admiral Walker, the president of our isthmian canal commission, has done well to report that the legal and diplomatic situation is such as to utterly preclude the consideration of the Panama route by the government. The report has not actually been made as yet, but it has been given out that it will be made as stated, and that the Nicaraguan route will be recommended.

If the report is so made it is to be hoped that action will be taken on it and an appropriation sufficient to carry through the Nicaraguan canal project will be made before the coming session of congress ends. This waterway connecting the Atlantic with the Pacific will be a great thing for the commerce of the whole country. It will be a particularly great thing for Texas on account of its situation. It is bound to be of immense advantage to Houston, once deep water is secured for this city, as it is bound to be in the near future.

The immense advantages that will accrue to American commerce are seen at once upon consideration of the fact that the distance from New York to San Francisco around Cape Horn is 17,660 miles. By the Nicaraguan canal route it will be 4,907 miles. Over 10,000 miles will be saved. The trip now takes 120 days. When the canal is built it can be made in twenty days. Then, besides, it will place us in much closer communication with the people and the markets of the Orient. The most popular manufactured goods in China today come from the cotton mills of the South. With the opening of the Nicaragua canal the demand will be enormously increased. What the Suez canal did for European commerce, the Nicaragua canal will do for the commerce of the United States.

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

It is a well settled principle that rests upon the most solid foundations of reason and of good policy that a United States army or naval officer has no business with politics. His duty is plain. The soldier and the sailor are the hands of the government and exist to strike. They have nothing to do with its head or heart. Their duty is confined to obeying orders.

Nevertheless, man being but human, it is inevitable that, although they subordinate them altogether in the performance of their duty, the army and navy men have opinions upon questions of public policy. It is but natural that these opinions should be in favor of the plans the government in power is engaged in carrying out, particularly when the government has had to call the army and navy into active service to help it carry out the plans aforesaid. A sort of loyal partisanship is thus created that the army and navy men find it hard to get away from, as this partisan feeling seems to have its root in professional honor.

Therefore it is not surprising to find army officers and naval officers, as a rule, in favor of the subjugation of the Philippines. But it is amusing to see how far sometimes their unconscious bias will lead them. In an article in the current number of the American Monthly Review of Reviews, Captain John H. Parker, Twenty-eighth Infantry, U. S. A., seems to be trying to justify the conquest of the Philippines on the ground that they are a lower order of man than Americans and are much given to lying. In the same number of the Review Captain H. L. Hawthorne of the United States artillery corps insists that the Filipinos have manifested "enthusiastic admiration for and support of" our government.

In view of the fact that at least 60,000 Filipinos have borne arms against our government in a war that has lasted two years, and, according to the latest dispatches, is still going on, it is certain that the Filipinos manifest their enthusiastic admiration for and support of our government in a peculiar way.

The argument as to the inferiority of the Filipinos

racially and morally is, of course, unsound. Their fitness for self-government has been testified to by Admiral Dewey. But even if they were as savage as Captain Parker claims (and there is abundance of testimony to the contrary), that would be no argument in favor of our right to conquer them. We have no right to subdue a people and govern them against their will merely because they are savage.

Whatever the beliefs of army officers and republicans, there are still thousands of true democrats in the country who join with The Post in saying, in the words of the Kansas City platform, "We condemn and denounce the Philippine policy of the present administration." What ought to be done is plainly indicated in that platform. We should give the Filipinos, first, a stable form of government; second, independence; third, protection from outside interference by extending the Monroe doctrine to include them.

INDUSTRIAL PRE-EMINENCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

The recent plan of the French government to send students from the French polytechnic schools to the United States to study American business and industrial methods is a striking instance of European recognition of American progress. Similar plans have been broached in England and in Germany and have been received with favor in those countries. The scheme in France originated with M. Millerand, minister of commerce, and is being carried out by M. Bouquet, the head of the technical instruction department of the ministry of commerce. M. Bouquet says that France realizes that "America now leads the van in industrial progress. She is far ahead of England, Germany and ourselves in organization and methods of work." France has been sending students in the past to Germany, England and Belgium. Now they are to be sent to America, "where," M. Bouquet says, "they will be able to study under competent guidance, that actually, inventive genius and marvelous organization which have lifted the industrial world of America above all its European rivals."

This is a far better way of meeting what the European journals have come to call the "American menace" than by retaliatory tariff wars, which are apt to prove boomerangs to the countries that indulge in them. Customs unions between the European nations against the United States have been frequently proposed, but on account of international rivalry have never been carried out. The French policy is far in advance of any such measures. Besides, it is a splendid tribute to the genius and industrial pre-eminence of the American people.

It is probable that congress may be asked to pass a bill granting Mrs. McKinley a yearly pension of \$500, as was done in the cases of the widows of Grant and of Garfield. If Mrs. McKinley was in need of money the South would be the first to come to her rescue, but in consideration of the fact that she is worth upwards of \$200,000, what is the necessity of putting this additional burden upon the taxpayer?

Members of the city administration may die, but they never resign.

Now an antiquarian hobs up and denies that General Putnam, of Revolutionary fame, ever did take that thrilling ride down Hersenck hill. And poor old Put is not in a position to demand a court of inquiry.

The heavy wait that was to decide who was the heavyweight is now at an end.

Even the elements seem to have embroiled against Great Britain, and German military officers are telling how they could knock King Ed's crown down over his ears if they felt like it. Truly, the mother country is in a bad way.

The United States has not yet appointed her designate, but when she does it won't be Theodore.

A court of inquiry seems to stand a chance of becoming a fact; Lew Wallace has asked for one to determine his conduct at the battle of Shiloh. The general's chance has expired by the statute of limitations.

FRANKLIN'S optimism shows that she has no intention of borrowing trouble; let, then, she doesn't need to.

It is reported that Miss Stone may lose her mind, but if we say the ransom we must have the mind as well as the maiden. She has perhaps been giving pieces of her mind to the bargains.

In every voice to his policy, Salisbury seems to have inadvertently picked up Chamberlain's megaphone.

Dewar will make the speech at the opening of the Charleston exposition. Chauncey seems to realize that his talking days will soon be over, and is declining no invitations to speak.

FRANCE'S victory was handed over so smilingly that it is just possible the sultan palmed off an imitation on her.

BRODERICK says of the Boers that England will now "commence the process of wearing them down." It is high time she did something in the premises.

Those train robbers succeeded in getting a large amount of unsigned bills, but they are in great danger of losing their Bullion.

The German officer who says he could land 100,000 Germans in England must have lots of money or else be able to get excursion rates.

EXCHANGE INTERVIEWS.

K. E. Yantis of the Athens Review has been mentioned as a possible candidate for State senator from his district. K. E. is a brainy man and would honor the position more than the position would honor him. If he cares for it, here's hoping.

Why is it that the United States, which makes everything else in the world quite as cheaply as any other nation, can not build ships in competition with those others? Admitting, for the sake of argument, that we can not build them, the reason why we can not is plain. It is because the steel trust, favored by the tariff, sells iron and steel for ship building purposes to the foreign builder some 40 per cent cheaper than it sells the very same goods to the home builder. Is it wonderful that this should handicap the latter?—Brenham Banner.

That certainly furnishes food for thought, and is a matter calling for remedial legislation. An export duty on this class of goods would evidently answer all the purposes of a ship subsidy.

If Lindale secures the location of the experiment station, Brother Cooper of the Reporter will be entitled to wear a feather in his hat.—Tyler Democrat-Reporter.

Of course! Did you ever see anything that was worth having come to any town without the help of that town's local paper? Brother Cooper deserves credit if Lindale gets the experiment station, and he deserves credit if it doesn't. There is more patriotism, more self-denial and more hard work in the publishing of a paper than the average man cares to stop to suppose. And the average publisher of one gets more rebuts and worse treatment from the very people he is trying to help than is accorded to any man in any other line of endeavor. It takes long pulling, strong pulling, and pulling all the time to drag the average old muckaboot out of the woods, and usually nothing short of a jimmy will pry his fist open far enough to admit of the escape of a dollar, while the man who hands in an ad for one insertion usually does it just to encourage the editor; the encouragement wouldn't be so bad if he always remembered to pay for the ad, which he frequently does not. When the efforts of the paper have

boomed the town until the inhabitants thereof have acquired wealth in spite of themselves, the editor goes to a pauper's grave, while the good citizens point him out as a horrible example to their children.

"Now that the period of mourning is over" is the preface to suggested changes that Mr. Roosevelt will make in the cabinet.—Gainesville Register.

"Now that the period of mourning is over," let us hope that the color of his dinner guests will be lighter than it was on a recent occasion that we wot of.

Did you ever think that a fool your imagination makes of you sometimes—that is, if you have a full imagination?—Pleasanton Monitor.

The man that says "yes" to that query confesses to having a fool imagination, and we ain't a-goin' to do it! We have a strong imagination that the fool who has a fool imagination never fools away time thinking about the different kinds of a fool the fool imagination makes of him.

If everybody in the city will pull together to make the street fair a success it will be just what they pull for. Let's all go into it with our sleeves rolled up.—Palestine Press.

Some editors certainly have queer ideas of full dress.

It was bad enough for the duke and duchess of Cornwall to have been asked to prolong the necessity of meeting Alfred Austin on the landing.—Brenham Press.

It is safe to say that if the duke could be king for five minutes, what he would do to Austin would be a plenty. But he'd deserve it.

It will be cold enough by and by.—Denison Herald.

That'll be better than having it too hot.

The court of criminal appeals, now in session at Tyler, rendered an important decision yesterday. Judge Johnson, county judge of Bowie county, was tried and convicted of unlawfully carrying a pistol. He appealed the case to the higher court, and in a long opinion handed down yesterday the court reversed and remanded the case, holding that county judges are peace officers within the meaning of the statute, and as such are allowed to carry weapons.—Tyler Democrat-Reporter.

That looks queer, doesn't it? The Transcript hopes that the county judges will not avail themselves of this dangerous privilege accorded by law.—Terrell Transcript.

It is safe to say all law-abiding, peace-loving, peace-deserving county judges will not adopt the custom of carrying pistols just because the court of criminal appeals upheld it.—Gainesville Times.

A gun on the flank of a justice of the peace is just about as useful and as ornamental as would be a fifth wheel on a lumpy buggy.

POINTS ABOUT PEOPLE.

When not yet 21 years old ex-Governor Jones of Alabama, who has been appointed to the Federal bench by President Roosevelt, bore one of the flags of truce at Appomattox, and after the war was among the first Southerners to plead for reconciliation between North and South.

The New Bedford textile school has the first free scholarship to be established in an institution of its kind in this country. William Firth of Boston, a member of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' association, has given \$3000 to be devoted to that purpose.

That remarkable American from all points of view, Cassius M. Clay of Kentucky, now over 90 years of age, is preparing his autobiography.

Governor A. G. Jones of Nova Scotia is reported to have twice declined the honor of knighthood, offered while the duke of Cornwall and York was in Canada.

The Rev. Asher Anderson, pastor of the First Congregational church of Meriden, Conn., for twelve years, and who was recently appointed secretary of the national council of Congregational churches, resigned his pastorate last Sunday. His office will be in Boston at the Congregational home.

Princess Ayad, who has created a stir in England by her crusade against social conditions in Turkey, will visit the United States this winter and preach the same cause.

Walter E. H. Massey, who died on Monday, was one of the greatest manufacturers of agricultural implements in Canada. He was a large importer of fine cattle, which he kept on Dentonia farm, his summer residence. He was a prominent member of the Methodist church, a regent of Victoria university, and one of the treasurers of the Twentieth Century Thanksgiving fund of the Methodist church.

SOME POSTSCRIPTS.

British America is about 100,000 square miles greater than the United States.

Ireland has 408 able bodied persons to 1000 inhabitants. Scotland 424 and England 412.

Nova Scotia fruit has been well received on the Scotch and English markets this year.

Before long there is a probability that Johannesburg will become the capital of the Transvaal.

Nearly 4,000,000 pounds of oatmeal was exported from this country during the month of September.

The expenses of the city of New York for the first three months of this year amounted to \$44,066,253.

Owing to bad weather it is believed that there will be a greater shortage in the world's supply of tea this year.

Japanese florists have succeeded in cultivating a rose which looks red in the sunlight and white in the shade.

The German government has appropriated \$50,000 to provide motor cars for use in the coming army maneuvers.

The alarming increase of drunkenness among women in large centers in England is creating disquiet in many quarters.

The damage to the wheat crop last year by the Hessian fly in the province of Ontario, Canada, has been estimated at \$2,600,000.

Three out of every five immigrants who come to the United States are men, and 10 out of every 75 people here are of foreign birth.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

(New York Press.)

If you tell a woman that you love her often enough there's a chance of her coming to love you.

One reason so few women are good poker players is that they don't see any fun in holding their own hands.

A woman's way of winning an argument is to get you mad so that she can cry, and then you'll say you are sorry to stop her crying.

The woman who talks chocolate cream when there is company in the house can act vinegar and bitter almonds when there isn't any.

There are very few women who can see through a man's business proposition, but very few also who can not see through the man himself.

Real and Mixed.

The attempts to trace eminent negroes of the American stock back to this and that African tribe or people have not been recognized by anthropologists as having much value. Here and there a specimen of the Zulu tribe, or one of some other tribe of the Bantu nation, may be recognized; but he is up to be a mere "sport," that takes his physique and intellect from remote ancestors. Such men, giants in stature and strength and many qualities, we have known, whose parents were small in size and mean in mental equipment.

The point is that the race has been so mixed up in this country that special qualities, found in individuals, are "outcrops" traceable to some ancient progenitor. The great majority of one human imports from Africa, 1620-1808, came from the west coast, where the people are very inferior in stature and mental force, compared to some interior tribes, and especially inferior to the people of the southeastern quarter of the continent.

The majority of the negroes who amounted to anything in the North, before the civil war, were pure bloods of the brown-skinned class. Henry Bibb, William Wells Brown, the Murrays of Pennsylvania, were of this kind. All were brown and large and brainy. Sam Ward of Cambridge, Mass., was a giant and "as black as ink." We can recall

but two of that sort of able negroes who were partly white men—Fred Douglass, who was a mulatto, and John M. Langston, also a half-blood. They were probably sons of their masters.

The census returns of 1890 indicated about 25 per cent of mixed people. That census also showed—as does common observation—that the mixing has pretty well ceased since the negro was recognized as a citizen before the law. There is no means whereby one may trace the comparative success in life of the full-bloods and mixed, since slavery was abolished, but the majority of those who have attracted wide attention by reason of what they have achieved on right lines, are partly white. Booker Washington is a mulatto, likewise Bishop Gaines. President Council of the Alabama normal is much more white than black. The noted politician and business man of Galveston, Coney, was a quadroon. On the other hand, many negroes more or less justly prominent as educators, religious leaders and in business affairs, are of Africa and its people will be brought by Africans, who are such in all respects. The mixed negro is rapidly disappearing, as statistics prove, and the end of the present generation, say 1950, will see, essentially, the last of him. He is an unnatural product, has no place of his own and must be supplanted by the genuine man with whom he is now classed, for want of any other place to put him in.

Congress and the Trusts.

Atlanta Constitution.

In a recent address to the Merchants' club of Chicago Mr. James B. Dill took the position that industrial combinations can not be prevented, and that the best practicable thing is to utilize and control them.

Mr. Dill sees no hope of accomplishing even this result except by Federal legislation. He has no faith in the efficacy of separate State legislation and gives some good reasons for that conviction when he says:

"A menace both to the combination and to the people is found in the competitive strife among States for revenue from corporations. Legislative inducements by way of private and public statutes to corporate organizations, war upon foreign corporations, is the legislative theory of very many States. Just so long as it is possible for a corporate organization in one State to do business in many other States, just so long will we find different States offering inducements to capital to incorporate under their particular laws. State legislation is each year growing more divergent, and we can look in that direction with no assurance of any uniformity of procedure and regulation of corporations."

New Jersey is a striking illustration of the way in which a State may be seduced by the profits to be derived from the exercise of its incorporating power. That State has accumulated a surplus of \$2,000,000 in its treasury which was obtained directly from the licensing of trusts, many of which are of the worst character.

Other States are bidding against New York in this competition to become centers of trust organization and protection. Connecticut is about to outstrip New Jersey on this line, while Maine and West Virginia are almost as eager to concede for a consideration all that any trust may ask for in its charter.

Mr. Dill's conclusion that the question "is National in its extent and breadth" is logical and well grounded on experience.

A Hero of Commerce.

Paris Advocate.

The military or naval hero who fights a foreign foe does not defend a more vital public interest than the railroad hero who fights to keep the highways of travel and trade safe and secure. One of these latter heroes is Express Messenger Charles, who a few days ago fought single-handed a gang of train robbers that tried to loot a Northern Pacific train in Oregon. He is entitled to consideration not only for his devotion, but for setting a valuable example of pluck and courage, and deserves substantial recognition from his employers.

When the highwaymen ordered him to open his door he refused. When they blew the door open with dynamite he fired through the opening. When the robbers forced the engineer to crawl first into the car to shield them he fired at them over the engineer's body. Finally, after half an hour's resistance, they retreated.

The incident furnishes a pretty effectual demonstration of how to stop train robbing. If all men in positions of trust had Mr. Charles' courage and took his view of their responsibilities, not only express robberies, but a good many other misdeeds, would become extremely infrequent. But with present rewards for exemplary service, is it incumbent upon a man to take such desperate chances as did this express messenger to protect the property of another? If he had shown this courage and faithfulness in the military or naval service he would have been decorated for gallantry, promoted with increased pay, or given a pension for life. The adoption of some such system of rewards is a matter deserving the attention of corporate management whose service frequently requires men to place their lives in jeopardy and calls for the exhibition of the highest type of heroism.

Hope Fulfilled.

(Memphis Scimitar.)

An old darkey who lives in the thickets across the river came to Memphis one day to get his pension check cashed. After receiving his money, which amounted to \$11, the old ex-slave sauntered down Front street to a produce house and bought three crates of cabbage. When they were delivered at the wharf late that afternoon the old man was there, and received them with a mouth watering in anticipation of the good time ahead.

"What yer gwine ter do wid dem cabbages?" inquired the negro drayman who delivered them.

"Eat 'em," was the quick response. "I've been free forty years, and dis is de first time I've had de money to buy 'nuff cabbage. I've gwine ter eat cabbage till I fergit de way ter my mouf."

A Question of Talk.

Washington Star.

"Why do you disregard the reformers and vote for the ring politicians?"

"Well," answered the member of the masses, "it's like this. De man wit de silk hat an' de dictionary has our admiration. But when it comes to friendship we can't help stickin' to de man dat kin talk our kind o' language."

Honesty Proved the Best Policy.

(Baltimore Herald.)

It seems strange, no doubt, to the British war office that Redvers Buller has become suddenly the most popular man in England. Buller gained this admiration by telling the whole truth when it was unfavorable to him, which is an expedient that the gentlemen in Downing street would regard with horror.

Distrust the Turk's Credit.

(Savannah News.)

The Cramps, ship builders of Philadelphia, have announced that the keel of the Turkish cruiser they are to build will not be laid until the full purchase price has been paid. In this announcement they evince an acquaintance with the small failings of the port which many nations have reason to envy.

The Foundation of Our Greatness.

(San Francisco Chronicle.)

Nearly 17,000,000 American children are attending school. This is almost one-fourth the population of the republic. There is a connection between this fact and the other so generally acknowledged that this is an enlightened and progressive nation.

Bulgarian Bills of Exchange.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

These Bulgarian bandits do business in strict accordance with modern banking rules. It is difficult for the victim to get an extension of thirty days.

AND THAT REMINDS ME

"Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." Wasn't it Cuvier, or was it Buffon, who said that? "And books," I can always tell what a man is from the books he reads—that is, if he reads at all. The club men of a country are a fast life always reads Ouida or Maupassant. Maupassant is a real artist and Ouida a fake, but the clubman's merit. What he wants is something that good people can shock. Then athletic young men read Kipling and Stevenson. Old maids read Marie Corelli. Little school girls read Miss Alcott, and that's a very good reading for them. Young ladies read Anthony Hope and J. M. Barrie; also the successful books of the season as fast as they come out. Those you'd least suspect of having this quality, people are hearty, read Dickens. People who know what a real reader is to read—I include myself in this discerning class. Thackeray. Bless my soul, I've given a regular lecture on the subject, but there is, depend upon it, a great deal in it that you'd think for at first. Look around you. You can't what a man reads, and there you have the man."

"I have a little friend who is one of the best fellows in the world," a gentleman said, "not unlike Oliver Goldsmith in appearance and disposition—he writes, too, and some of his work is famous—who is an incorrigible wag. He has a cousin, one of the most brilliant fellows I ever knew, whom I am proud to say is my friend, too, who sometimes sends him in his villany. They both paid a visit to New York some time since, and were riding along Broadway in a cab. My little friend, as he and his cousin were both strangers, thought he'd have a little fun, so, when his cousin spoke to him, he answered with his fingers, using the deaf and dumb alphabet. His cousin caught on at once, and thereupon spoke very loud when he addressed him, and received his replies spelled out on his fingers with the utmost joy. Several kind-hearted old ladies, to the intense joy of the rascals, were heard to say, 'Poor young man! poor young man! What an affliction!' One asked my friend's cousin, 'he had always been dumb.' 'Born deaf and dumb,' my friend replied. 'But he's gradually getting his hearing. He hears if you speak very loud. But we're afraid he will always be dumb.' 'Poor young man!' repeated the kind-hearted old lady."

"Another trick of these scoundrels," the gentleman continued, "was at a Tennessee summer resort, where the spent last summer. My friend came to the breakfast table with his hands trembling and his lower jaw unbuttoned. His cousin took occasion to inform an old lady sitting next to him, in a tone sufficiently loud for the other old ladies at the table to hear, that the appearance of illness in his companion resulted from taking opium. All the old ladies looked surprised. Whereat my friend wagged his lower jaw from side to side and shook his hands as if he had the palsy, and kept saying, 'You know it's a terrible affliction, once you get in the clutches of the vice, my friend's cousin went on; you simply have to have the drug. You can not possibly do without it. If deprived of it for any cause something awful is sure to happen. Now his supply is out; that's what's the matter with him. I am afraid I won't be able to get to town and buy him some opium and get back in time. I'm afraid something disagreeable will happen.' 'Why, what does he do?' asked the old lady, dropping her spectacles. 'Well, I have to tell you, but if deprived of opium too long he has an epileptic fit. I think he is going to have one now.' My friend was wagging his jaw and shaking his hands at a tremendous rate, and like a lot of chickens when a hawk lights in the chicken yard, the old ladies rustled up in a bunch and fluttered out of the dining room, clattering in the greatest alarm. Now wasn't that a villainous trick? They certainly are a set of mad wags, these two."

TAMPERING WITH TRIFLES.

WRITE OFTEN.

"Write often," she murmurs: I stoop for a kiss! And another! her soul looks its love into mine; Then the clang of the bell and the ablaze hiss Of the steam, and the grinding of wheels on the list, And I am away! I have plunged into in the night! In the darkness! the world! Oh, the world is so wide! And the train sways and rocks in its hurrying flight Like a demon which tears me away from her side.

"Write often!" Ah, yes! when I pick up my pen I shall see the old places we walked in of old; I shall feel her sweet kisses, her handclasp again. See her eyes bonny blue and her hair's tawny gold—There she sits! see her now! on the old rustic seat! Where the cliff path turns round, winding up from below! Unconsciously beautiful! wondrously